

in the Second District of North Carolina. These farmers are not the giant tobacco corporations the Clinton administration, the FDA, and some in Congress attack regularly. These are small farmers who struggle from year to year just to make ends meet. These are the people who provide the jobs and pay the taxes.

The end result of the Clinton crusaders will be to make tobacco products illegal. The White House talks about American jobs, but it will stop at nothing to wipe out a proud and legal American industry and watch its profits head offshore. The tobacco farmers in my district generate over \$43,000 in taxes for each acre of tobacco, and tobacco products, provide the Treasury over \$11.5 billion annually.

WHO IS REALLY GOING TO BENEFIT IF CONGRESS RENEWS CHINA'S MOST-FAVORED-NATION STATUS?

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, who is really going to benefit if Congress renews China's most-favored-nation trade status for another year? Will more of our citizens get good jobs with good benefits? No. Will prices go down in our stores? No. We will all wait for that day. But will leading importers from China make billions off trading our jobs for outsourced production to China? Absolutely.

People like David Glass will benefit. Who is he? He is the chief executive officer of Wal-Mart, the leading United States importer from China. Last year he earned over \$1 million trading off the handiwork of Chinese women who earn 10 cents an hour working 14-hour days. So did his top five executives, who hauled off over \$3 million just last year.

Evidently Wal-Mart believes China's repressive regime is somebody they want to do business with. Last year, Wal-Mart imported 1,000 shipments from China by relying on 700 Chinese contract sweatshops. Can Members imagine how many jobs that would create in our country, including in those communities in which Wal-Mart does business here? I say it is time to revoke China's privileged trade status until we get a fair shake for American and Chinese workers and consumers.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A BIPARTISAN SOLUTION TO SAVE MEDICARE BEFORE IT GOES BANKRUPT IN 2001

(Mr. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for a bipartisan solution to save Medicare before it goes bankrupt in 2001.

Frankly, I've been surprised by the scare tactics and demagoguery by the other side.

They know Medicare is going bankrupt, but they would rather attack Republicans than fix the problem.

Despite the false claims and disinformation being perpetuated by Washington union bosses, the truth is that our plan would increase Medicare spending from \$4,900 per beneficiary in 1996 to \$7,100 per person in 2002. That's a \$2,200 per senior increase in Medicare spending.

Our plan requires us to spend smarter. It cracks down on waste, fraud, and abuse.

For me, this is not a partisan issue—it is a personal issue. I have loved ones who depend on Medicare. Like so many other American seniors, my grandmother, who still teaches school, needs Medicare as a safety net.

So let's end the partisan sniping. Saving Medicare will not be easy; it is a task that will require wisdom, courage, and resolution. Only by working together will we be able to preserve and protect this vital program.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WANT CONGRESS TO WORK FASTER AND WITH LESS POLITICAL POSTURING

(Ms. DELAURO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, last week after much pushing, prodding, and pulling, the House passed an increase in the minimum wage. This past weekend what I heard over and over from the residents of Connecticut's Third District, which I represent, was: "Finally. What took so long?"

Madam Speaker, the American people want us to continue to focus on policies that protect their families, honor their work, and safeguard the future for their children, but they want these policies to move through this Congress faster and with less political posturing.

The American people want retirement security, so let us make pensions portable. They want health care reform, so let us cover preexisting conditions. They want a balanced budget, but they do not want us to raid the Medicare system.

I challenge the Republican leadership to listen to what the American people are saying. They want to see that Medicare is preserved and not destroyed, and that we do not provide a tax break for the wealthiest Americans at the expense of seniors who have played by the rules all their lives, and all they want is a decent, safe, and a dignified retirement.

WELFARE REFORM: THE WHITE HOUSE NEEDS TO LEAD, FOLLOW, OR GET OUT OF THE WAY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, during the 1992 presidential campaign, candidate Clinton promised to end welfare as we know it. Not only has he not ended welfare as we know it, but he has acted as the protector and champion of welfare as we know it. This Republican-led Congress has sent the President a welfare bill based on common-sense reforms, and he vetoed it not once but twice. So much for ending welfare as we know it.

Timed to undercut a speech by Senator ROBERT DOLE, the President announced his support for Republican welfare reform planned by Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson. However, he failed to promise his signature on a waiver allowing the Governor's plan to go forward. Such a waiver, implementing these types of reform, would not be necessary if the President had signed the welfare reform legislation sent to him by the Republican-controlled Congress. Again, a great display of this President's skill at saying one thing and doing another.

TIME TO LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT WHITEWATER

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, a jury found Jim McDougal and his wife, Susan McDougal, guilty; guilty on 22 counts. They face 10 years in prison, 10 times that, 100 years and over \$5 million in fines. A jury found Arkansas Governor Tucker guilty on two counts. He faces 10 years and a half a million dollars in fines. I do not know if the McDougals are innocent or guilty. I do not know if Tucker is innocent or guilty, but I know one thing for sure. If they have any friends left in the savings and loan industry, now is the time to call them up.

As a Democrat I want to say this, is it any wonder the American taxpayers got shafted for over \$100 billion in savings and loans ripoffs, after seeing what happened in Little Rock? I think it is time to find the truth. They had better make a loan. They are sure facing a lot of penalties.

STATES KNOW BEST WHEN IT COMES TO THE WELFARE OF THEIR CITIZENS

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Madam Speaker, over 200 years ago 13 States came together to form the foundation of a new nation. Their union was based on the belief that big centralized government is bad government. Today, 37 States later, that belief is especially true when you consider welfare reform.

History teaches us again and again that States know best when it comes